



Grace Ogoshi

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Grace Ogoshi

SCHOOL: Garrison Middle School

Position: Reading teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 11 years

Q. What are students in your 8th grade reading class working on?

A. We are focusing on non-fiction. A lot of the state assessment centers on non-fiction, so I want to expose them to this type of reading. Features of non-fiction books are much different than the books most of them read; like novels or realistic fiction.

Q. How do you help the students get excited about reading non-fiction books?

A. I try to find their interests and then introduce them to books related to these areas. If they like music, I will find a book about a musician or the music industry. If they like cars, I'll help them find a book about a race car driver or other aspects of automobiles. There are endless resources to peak their interests.

Q. Does this strategy work?

A. A lot of the students who are not readers, especially my boys, get turned on to non-fiction and discover how much is out there. They become avid readers and are successful.

Q. How does the library help support your reading class?

A. The library provides a larger space for students to find a quiet place to read. It has the resources they need for this class. Many of my students have difficulties sorting patterns and organizing their thoughts. I use the library to help teach them these skills, which ultimately help them in their other subjects as well.

Q. How do you help students overcome challenges at home?

A. This class requires reading outside of the school day. Many of the students do not have a quiet place at home to read. We stay after school and open our classrooms up for reading. We also connect them to the public library and other community resources to overcome these challenges.

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
GRACE OGOSHI'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM GRACE...

The most powerful skill I teach them is reflecting on what they have learned. I teach them to think out loud and share their ideas. I challenge them to ask: What did I learn? How does this effect me? Why does this matter?

Often I ask my students to go home and teach their little brother or sister or mom or dad what they have learned.



It's one thing to have knowledge about something, but to be able to apply it and teach someone else really shows you have mastery of the subject.